



Burr Ridge Briefs

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Dwight DeClouette Appointed to Fill Vacancy



Dwight DeClouette (left) was appointed in mid-September to complete the term vacated by former Trustee Amy Rohner. "I am a strong advocate for balancing residential and business growth", stated DeClouette, continuing "I plan to work on behalf of the constituents in Burr Ridge as well as the region." A nine-year resident of the Village, Trustee DeClouette works for EMC Corporation as a business development manager. He has been a member of the Economic Development Committee since 2003 and the E-9-1-1 Board since 2002. His term will expire April 30, 2007.

Village Center Project Phase One Approved

The Village Board, at its October 10th meeting, approved the final plans for Phase I of the Village Center. Phase I includes the construction of five of seven buildings and all site improvements, such as streets, sidewalks and landscaping. Phase II includes construction of the remaining two buildings. Opus North hopes to begin mass grading of the site this fall, break ground and begin construction in the spring of 2006, opening the Center in the spring of 2007.



The Village Center is a mixed use "downtown" district featuring an open air shopping experience characterized by upscale retail and restaurants along a main street. The project will include 191,000 square feet of retail space, 25,000 square feet of restaurants, 33,000 square feet of office space and 179 condominium units. The developer, Opus North Corporation, expects to begin ground work immediately and construction of buildings in the spring of 2006. More information is available at the Village Hall or on our website www.burr-ridge.gov.

Mayor Makes Board Committee Appointments

It is standard practice for the Mayor to present recommendations concerning Board committee appointments. As such, Mayor Grasso made several appointments and some notable change in mid-September. The Affordable Housing Committee was disbanded following the completion of its role: to create an Affordable Housing Plan as mandated by the State. The Gateway Beautification Committee was eliminated and its role, to make recommendations regarding the development of a Gateway Beautification Plan consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, was absorbed by the Pathway Commission. A 50th Anniversary Committee was created to plan the celebrations commemorating the Village's 50th Anniversary in 2006. For more information about each committee, its role, members and meeting agendas, visit www.burr-ridge.gov and click on Boards and Commissions.

News in Brief

Village Working to Reduce Train Whistle Noise

Following positive feedback from residents near the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad crossing at 97th and Madison Streets, staff is moving forward as quickly as possible to implement a solution to the noisy train whistles. For years, residents have complained about the noise from passing trains, but now, due to a new Federal Railroad Administration rule, the Village can proceed with its plans to install a wayside horn at the intersection. Currently, trains blow their horns for some distance before and after the crossing. A wayside horn is a mechanism installed on and sounded at the crossing only as the train approaches. Staff conducted a demonstration of the wayside horn for residents within earshot of the crossing and, thus far, residents seem pleased with the reduction in noise. A Federal grant has been secured to fund approximately 70% of the \$60,000 needed to install the wayside horn, with the Village expected to pay the remaining 30% (\$18,000). Although funds may not be available until 2007, the Village will do its utmost to expedite the installation of the wayside horn next year.

We're Counting on You for a 2006 Special Census

The Village is preparing for a Special Census to be conducted in the summer of 2006. A significant amount of population growth has occurred since the last Census and fiscal constraints make maximizing revenue sources essential to providing the Village services. Those who answer the census help their community and schools obtain a fair share of federal and state funds. Village Staff estimates that approximately \$115,000 per year in additional state income and motor fuel tax can be realized as a result of the special census. That money directly funds road improvements and Village services. Census data provides valuable information used as a planning tool and by businesses to reduce financial risks and locate potential markets. In the coming months, the Village will begin recruiting enumerators and will begin its campaign to promote the census.

Police Briefs

Watch for Suspicious Activity in your Neighborhood:

Residents should alert the police to suspicious vehicles and persons in their neighborhood. The holidays are fast approaching and the "bad guys" go Christmas shopping too, however, they shop in homes and cars. Lock the doors and windows, set alarms (even if going grocery shopping for an hour). Leave exterior lights on, sign up for the Police Department's Vacation Watch, even if going out of town for the weekend. Do not let papers or mail pile up. Do not mail important documents containing account or social security numbers using the home mailbox by leaving the red flag up. That red flag lets the "bad guys" know there is outgoing mail too.

Call the Police Department at 323-8181 to schedule a safety check of you home. Officers will evaluate your property and suggest ways to make your home more secure.

83rd Street Sidewalk Project Delayed

Residents will have to wait until Spring for the reconstruction of 83rd Street between County Line Road and Fars Cove, as well as resurfacing to Frontage Road. Partially funded by a federal grant, the construction contract was awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in September. However, a new policy now allows the state to hold certain funds, such as this grant, for up to 45 days for budgetary purposes. This slow down by the state has effectively stopped any possibility of construction this year due to cold weather conditions. Village staff anticipates construction to begin in April when asphalt plants reopen for the season, although some work, such as tree removal, may begin in March. Affected residents will be notified once a project schedule is finalized.

Burr Ridge Hotel Web Site Now Available

Out of town guests coming in for the holidays? Support local businesses by encouraging guests who require hotel accommodations to stay at a Burr Ridge hotel. The Economic Development Hotel Marketing Subcommittee has created a Burr Ridge Hotels web site, making it easier to learn more about each of the four facilities. Visit www.burrridgehotels.com today!

Village Welcomes New Staff, Reorganizes Others

In late October, the Village welcomed Amy Wulf as the Assistant Finance Director, replacing Diana Jean Suplizio who relocated out of state August. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Amy brings to the Village eight years of accounting and auditing experience focused in the local government industry. Also joining the Village staff is Tami Seastrom, Community Development Secretary, who started in early November. Tami has over ten years of secretarial experience and will work part time, sharing the position with Cindy Haywood, former Building and Zoning Assistant. Julie Tejkowski was recently promoted to the Assistant position and will continue to help residents and businesses with their building permit needs.

Citizens Police Academy Graduates Largest Class

On November 10th, 19 students graduated from the eighth annual Citizen Police Academy. Completing the ten week program was Christopher and Elizabeth Cronin, Donna Waszak, Chester Kilian, Joan Anderson, Toni and Joe Magrini, Jennifer Horvath, Kathryn Sperlak, Andrew and Janet Traficanti, Stacy Flynn, Emil Makar, Mary and Harry Bradley, Robert Cserep, Kenneth Novak, John Roche and David Allen. Graduates are encouraged to join the Alumni Association and attend future sessions for new information.

Gun Locks Available for Residents

The Police Department has a supply of gun locks. Contact Officer Angie Zuccherro at 323-8181, extension 322, if you would like a free gun lock.

Public Works in Brief

Tree Trimming Begins After New Year

The Village of Burr Ridge prunes all parkway trees on a seven-year cycle. This winter, the annual tree pruning program will focus on Area One, which encompasses 59th Street to the north, County Line Road to the east, Plainfield Road to the south and Madison Street to the west. Trees on County Line Road and Plainfield Road will not be pruned by the Village of Burr Ridge as they are the responsibility of Cook County and DuPage County. Winkler's Tree Service will prune all parkway trees eight inches or larger in diameter. Forestry and Grounds staff will prune all trees smaller than eight inches in diameter. All work will take place under the supervision of Village Arborist/Forestry and Grounds Crew Leader, Gary Gatlin. Questions should be directed to him at 323-4733, extension 455.

Parkway trees are the responsibility of the Village, maintained by Public Works and its Village Arborist, who makes decisions about their care and maintenance. Unfortunately, sometimes a branch or branches must be removed in a manner that leaves a parkway tree looking asymmetrical. While aesthetics are a concern, the primary consideration when the Village prunes parkway trees is the safety of vehicular traffic, pedestrians and property owners. Trees must be pruned with a minimum clearance of 16 feet above the street pavement as the trees reach maturity. Dead or structurally unsound branches are also removed.

Keep Streets Safe in Winter

During snow storms the Village is responsible for clearing 60 miles of streets and 162 cul-de-sacs, eyebrows and dead-ends. To assist the Public Works Department, a contractual service is hired to plow certain areas of the Village. While the snowplows are clearing streets after a snow storm, you can do your part by remembering these key points for winter roadway safety:

- ❄ Be cautious around snowplow equipment. Children should not play in or near the streets while plowing is in progress.
- ❄ Be careful entering major streets and highways. Stay a safe distance away from snowplows to avoid being hit by spreading material or ice that may fall off the truck.
- ❄ Do not shovel snow into the street from your driveway as it will probably end up back on your driveway once plows make another pass. Instead, shovel it into grassy areas.
- ❄ A snow emergency will be declared whenever two inches or more of snow accumulates during any 24-hour period. The emergency will remain in effect for 48 hours, during which time on-street parking is prohibited.
- ❄ Thoroughfares are plowed first, followed by secondary streets and then cul-de-sacs, which are generally plowed last, often by outside contractors.
- ❄ If your vehicle becomes disabled, pull as far off the road as possible, turn on your emergency flashers and other lights in order to be seen. Keep snow off your headlights and taillights.

Mailbox Damage from Snowplows

Check now to make sure your mailbox is sturdy and in good condition so that it can withstand the rigors of winter and snow plow season. The Village is only responsible for damage due to direct plow contact with a mailbox or its post and liability is limited to \$50. There is no liability for mailboxes that do not conform to regulations. For more information on mailbox regulations, see the article in the Know the Code section of this newsletter.

Managing Wildlife Programs

Various types of wildlife are and continue to be commonplace throughout the Village. The following suggestions can help residents make their property less attractive to wildlife:

- 🐾 Wild animals use their sense of smell to locate food. Homeowners should keep garbage cans in the garage or other enclosed area, or keep inner bags tightly closed and lids securely locked in place.
- 🐾 Brush piles make attractive homes to wild animals and should be eliminated.
- 🐾 Holes should be filled and mothballs should be sprinkled around animal dens.
- 🐾 Tree branches should be kept trimmed, especially if they provide access to roofs, attics and chimneys.
- 🐾 Feeding animals such as coyotes, raccoons and feral cats attracts them to residential neighborhoods, where many times the outcome is an unfortunate encounter with neighborhood pets. Pet food should be kept inside and away from such animals and do not, under any circumstances, feed them.

Know the Code

Mailboxes: A mailbox is an obstruction in the right-of-way and is, therefore, regulated by the Village to minimize the potential for vehicle damage and personal injury. Rigid and oversized supports such as masonry, stone or brick columns, solid concrete supports, barrels filled with concrete, etcetera, are prohibited. A mailbox must be installed on either a wooden post (4" x 4" minimum and 6" x 6" maximum) or a light-gauge hollow metal pipe (3" diameter minimum). Supports must be constructed to promote breakaway, bending or yielding upon impact of a vehicle. The Village is not liable for damage to illegal or nonconforming structures caused by direct contact from a snowplow.

Overnight Parking: Outside overnight parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas is prohibited. These vehicles must be stored in a fully enclosed structure (such as a garage) and may not be permanently affixed to the ground. Provided the vehicle(s) are in fully enclosed structures, two commercial vehicles may be stored overnight on any lot/parcel of land and one may be stored or parked overnight for each unit in a duplex, two-family, multi-family, or townhouse structure.

News in Brief

EQC to Sponsor Annual Essay Contest

To encourage awareness of environmental issues, the Environmental Quality Commission is hosting its sixth annual Essay Contest for students in 3rd to 12th grades. Prizes will be awarded to the most thoughtful, well-written essays at a special ceremony in the spring. Students can visit the EQC's page on the Village's web site (www.burr-ridge.gov) for contest topics and entry rules. Entries must be submitted by February 24th, 2006, to the EQC Essay Contest at the Burr Ridge Village Hall, 7660 South County Line Road. For more information call Lisa Scheiner at 654-8181, extension 105. Each year the contest has grown in popularity. In the past five years, Commissioners have reviewed 492 entries and presented awards to 69 students for their outstanding essays.

Identity Theft on the Rise; Tips for Prevention

Identity theft has been called the fastest growing crime of the Millennium. It is popular with criminals because it is easy to commit, and is considered a faceless, victimless crime. Victims of identity theft would disagree since, on average, they spend \$18,000 of their own money and 175 hours clearing their name and credit. The average amount stolen per victim is \$18,000.

To prevent identity theft, order a credit report from each reporting agency (Experian, Trans Union, Equifax), scrutinizing it for errors, new accounts (credit or utility) or address changes. Report inaccuracies immediately. Do not carry unnecessary credit cards or ID, especially Social Security cards. DO NOT RESPOND to e-mails from banks, credit card companies or internet commerce sites such as Amazon, Ebay or America Online. These companies will NEVER ask for personal information via e-mail. Be careful who you provide personal information to without knowing what is required, how or by whom it will be used. Do not send mail from a home mailbox as thieves look for the "red flag" to alert them to outgoing mail. Finally, do not leave wallets or purses in cars since car burglaries are the easiest way to gain access to personal information. Visit the Federal Trade Commission's web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft or contact the Burr Ridge Police Department for more information.

Seasons Greetings from the Village



The Mayor, Clerk and Board of Trustees, Department Heads and Village Staff would like to wish each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and an abundance of holiday cheer. We hope that

your holiday season is happy, healthy and safe. Peace and prosperity to you and yours in 2006.

Notify Police Department Before Large Parties

Planning a large party? Such events usually bring increased traffic and on-street parking, so it is important that the Department be alerted. Call 323-8181 to speak to Police staff.

Flood Insurance: Are You Sure You Have It?

Do you have flood insurance coverage on your home? Flood insurance is available to any property owner in a community that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Village has been qualified for the program for more than 25 years. Flooding in this area can be caused by heavy rains, melting snow, inadequate drainage systems. If you do not have this coverage, you should consider it. It is not included in a conventional insurance policy, so ask your agent and be sure to protect yourself from potential storm damage.

Open Burning Prohibited in Village

Open burning for disposal of trash or landscape waste is prohibited by Village Code and BOCA National Fire Prevention Code, which the Village has adopted by reference. Residents cannot enjoy open windows or relaxing outdoors when burning goes on around them. Please be considerate of your neighbors and let your waste hauler dispose of your trash.

Calendar of Events: November - January

November

- 7 Plan Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 9 Veterans' Memorial Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
Board of Fire & Police Commissioners Meeting 7:00 PM
- 10 Pathway Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 11 *Veterans' Day*
- 14 Village Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 15 Economic Development Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
- 21 Plan Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 23 Veterans' Memorial Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
- 24 *Thanksgiving - Village Hall Closed*
- 25 *Village Hall Closed*
- 28 Village Board Meeting 7:00 PM

December

- 5 Plan Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 12 Village Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 14 Veterans' Memorial Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
Board of Fire & Police Commissioners 7:00 PM
- 19 Plan Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 26 *Village Hall Closed*
- 28 Veterans' Memorial Committee Meeting 5:30 PM

January

- 2 *Village Hall Closed*
- 9 Village Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 10 Police Pension Board 7:00 PM
- 11 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners 7:00 PM
- 12 Pathway Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 16 Plan Commission Meeting 7:30 PM
- 17 Economic Development Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
- 18 Veterans' Memorial Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
- 19 Stormwater Management Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
- 23 Village Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 25 Veterans' Memorial Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
Environmental Quality Commission Meeting 7:30 PM